



# UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE  
United States Patent and Trademark Office  
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450  
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.		
10/529,485	03/28/2005	Duncan Lewis Steyn	6501-1047	6762		
466	7590	04/01/2008	EXAMINER			
YOUNG & THOMPSON 209 Madison Street Suite 500 ALEXANDRIA, VA 22314				WINNER, TONY H		
ART UNIT		PAPER NUMBER				
3611						
MAIL DATE		DELIVERY MODE				
04/01/2008		PAPER				

**Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.**

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

<b>Office Action Summary</b>	<b>Application No.</b>	<b>Applicant(s)</b>	
	10/529,485	STEYN, DUNCAN LEWIS	
	<b>Examiner</b>	<b>Art Unit</b>	
	Tony H. Winner	3611	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

#### Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

#### Status

1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 28 March 2005.

2a) This action is **FINAL**.                            2b) This action is non-final.

3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

#### Disposition of Claims

4) Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are pending in the application.

4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.

5) Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.

6) Claim(s) 24,25,35 and 41 is/are rejected.

7) Claim(s) 26-34, 36-40, and 42-44 is/are objected to.

8) Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

#### Application Papers

9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

10) The drawing(s) filed on 28 March 2005 is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.

    Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).

    Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).

11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

#### Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).

a) All    b) Some \* c) None of:

- Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
- Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
- Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

#### Attachment(s)

1) Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)

2) Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)

3) Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)  
Paper No(s)/Mail Date 3/28/05.

4) Interview Summary (PTO-413)  
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. \_\_\_\_\_.

5) Notice of Informal Patent Application

6) Other: \_\_\_\_\_.

***Drawings***

1. The drawings are objected to under 37 CFR 1.83(a). The drawings must show every feature of the invention specified in the claims. Therefore, the “banjo coupling”, “a banjo”, “sliding-valve connector”, and “5/2-way trigger valve”, of claims 39-40, 42, and 44, and must be shown or the features canceled from the claims. No new matter should be entered.

Corrected drawing sheets in compliance with 37 CFR 1.121(d) are required in reply to the Office action to avoid abandonment of the application. Any amended replacement drawing sheet should include all of the figures appearing on the immediate prior version of the sheet, even if only one figure is being amended. The figure or figure number of an amended drawing should not be labeled as “amended.” If a drawing figure is to be canceled, the appropriate figure must be removed from the replacement sheet, and where necessary, the remaining figures must be renumbered and appropriate changes made to the brief description of the several views of the drawings for consistency. Additional replacement sheets may be necessary to show the renumbering of the remaining figures. Each drawing sheet submitted after the filing date of an application must be labeled in the top margin as either “Replacement Sheet” or “New Sheet” pursuant to 37 CFR 1.121(d). If the changes are not accepted by the examiner, the applicant will be notified and informed of any required corrective action in the next Office action. The objection to the drawings will not be held in abeyance.

***Specification***

2. The disclosure is objected to because of the following informalities:
  - a. The specification includes various font sizes.
  - b. Designator (38) is being used both as "the machine base" page 6 line 20 and "the lower end" page 7 line 4.
  - c. The words "break activation" of page 7 lines 1 and 7 should be -- brake activation ---

Appropriate correction is required.

***Claim Objections***

3. Claims 1, 28, 29, 33, 37, and 42 are objected to because of the following informalities:
  - a. Claim 1 line 7 the recitation "the trailer pneumatic system" lacks antecedent basis;
  - b. Claim 1 line 11 the words "ai flow", a typo???
  - c. Claim 1 line 12 the words "theinlets" should be – the inlets ---?. And "the body" should be -- a body ---?
  - d. There are three periods in claim 28, two periods in claims 29 and 37;
  - e. The word "them" in claim 33 is indefinite. What structure is "them" referring to?
  - f. The phrase "an O-ring or the like" is indefinite. What is "the like"?

Appropriate correction is required.

**Note:** This is merely **exemplary** and is not to be **construed** as a complete listing of the errors.

***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102***

4. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

Claims 24, 25, and 35 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Johnson et al. (USPN. 2,053,614).

Johnson discloses a brake mechanism (figure 4) for a tractor and trailer, the system comprising:

- a. a piston (160) and a kingpin (175), the piston being slidable in a housing;
- b. the housing (not shown) including inlets for permanent air supply and service line air;
- c. the piston including passages for separately conveying the two air supplies (168, 171) to the base of the kingpin;
- d. the kingpin including passages (176, 177, 178) for separately conveying the air to outlets for distribution to the trailer pneumatic system;

- e. the piston being slid able between a first or disengaged position (col 8 lines 60-75) and a second or kingpin-engaging position upon hitching or unhitching of the horse and trailer,
- f. wherein upon hitching of the horse and trailer, the piston is adapted to re-direct air flow from the inlets through the passages in the body of the piston and into the kingpin upon movement of the piston into the kingpin-engaging position.

24. (new) A pneumatic connector for a horse and trailer comprises:

- a. a piston and a kingpin, the piston being slid able in a housing;
- b. the housing including inlets for permanent air supply and service line air;
- c. the piston including passages for separately conveying the two air supplies to the base of the kingpin;
- d. the kingpin including passages for separately conveying the air to outlets for distribution to the trailer pneumatic system;
- e. the piston being slid able between a first or disengaged position and a second or kingpin-engaging position upon hitching or unhitching of the horse and trailer,
- f. wherein upon hitching of the horse and trailer, the piston is adapted to re-direct

air flow from the inlets through the passages in the body of the piston and into the kingpin upon movement of the piston into the kingpin-engaging position.

Regarding claim 35, the kingpin is dimensioned to conform with the dimensions of existing kingpins to permit retro-fitting to existing fifth wheel arrangements.

***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103***

5. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claim 41 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Johnson.

Johnson discloses the claimed invention except for the use of high tensile, high sheer strength for the kingpin. It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to use high tensile, high sheer strength for the kingpin, since it has been held to be within the general skill of a worker in the art to select a known material of the basis of its suitability for the intended use as a matter of obvious design choice.

***Allowable Subject Matter***

6. Claims 26-34, 36-40, and 42-44 would be allowable if rewritten to overcome the claims objection set forth in this Office action and to include all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

***Conclusion***

7. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communication from the examiner should be directed to Anthony H. Winner whose telephone number is (571) 272-6654. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday from 9:30 am to 6:30 pm. If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Lesley Morris, can be reached at (571) 272-6651. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is (571) 273-8300.

8. Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information-Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll free).

6. Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is (571) 272-6584.

/Tony H. Winner/  
Primary Examiner of Art Unit 3611  
March 26, 2008